

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01  
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07  
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-15  
OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 PA-02  
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FM AMCONSUL TORONTO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5325  
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMCONSUL CALGARY

UNCLAS TORONTO 0914

(C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - CALGARY ADDED AS INFO ADDEE)

E.O. 11652: /A

TAGS: ENRG, EINV, CA

SUBJECT: NATIONALIST STATEMENTS ON PETROLEUM

1. THE PUBLIC PETROLEUM ASSOCIATION OF CANADA HELD A PUBLIC ENERGY CONFERENCE ON SATURDAY, APRIL 16, AT A TORONTO HOTEL. THE TOPIC "DOES CANADA NEED AN ARCTIC PIPELINE NOW?" FEATURED SIX SPEAKERS, INCLUDING BRUCE WILLSON ON "DOES CANADA'S NATURAL GAS INDUSTRY SERVE THE PUBLIC INTEREST?", JAMES LAXER ON "NORTHERN PIPELINES AS AN ISSUE IN CANADIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS" AND ROBERT PAGE ON "DOES SOUTHERN CANADA NEED NORTHERN GAS?". ELECTRONIC MEDIA COVERAGE SHOWED A VERY POOR ATTENDANCE AT THE 6-HOUR EVENT AND IN FACT TIED THE CONFERENCE TO THE COMMITTEE FOR AN INDEPENDENT CANADA, ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATIVE PEOPLES GROUPS. THE ONLY PRESS COVERAGE WAS IN THE TORONTO STAR OF APRIL 18 HEADLINED "GOVERNMENT, OIL INDUSTRY, SAID COOPERATING IN THE RIPOFF." COVERING THE PRESENTATION OF BRUCE WILLSON, FORMER PRESIDENT OF UNION GAS LTD. AND CANADIAN BECHTEL LTD., AND CURRENTLY CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE FOR AN INDEPENDENT CANADA.

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WILLSON SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO EXPORT LARGE AMOUNTS OF ENERGY TO THE U.S. CONTRIBUTED TO THE PRESENT HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT. "NATURAL GAS NOW GOING TO EXPORT COULD HAVE BEEN USED AS A BASIS FOR ATTRACTING ENERGY-STARVED U.S. MANUFACTURERS TO CANADA, THEREBY ASSISTING IN PROVIDING JOBS FOR MANY OF OUR UNEMPLOYED." AN INTERESTING COMMENT IN VIEW OF THE COMMITTEE'S USUAL DISLIKE OF AMERICAN CONTROL OF CANADAIN

INDUSTRY.

2. IN A SPEECH APRIL 18 TO THE CANADIAN CLUB IN TORONTO, PETRO-CANADA' CHAIRMAN MAURICE STRONG STATED "SOME ELEMENTS IN THE INDUSTRY, PRINCIPALLY A FEW LARGE FOREIGN-CONTROLLED COMPANIES, ARE WAGING AN UNRELENTING UNDERGROUND CAMPAIGN TO RESTRICT (PETRO-CANADA'S) ROLE AND UNDERMINE ITS CREDIBILITY BOTH WITH THE PUBLIC AND WITH GOVERNMENT." HE DID NOT IDENTIFY THE HOSTILE OIL COMPANIES AND IN FACT CONCEDED THAT "MANY COMPANIES HAVE SHOWN A GENERAL COOPERATIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD WORKING WITH US." STRONG ALSO CRITICIZED THE GOVERNMENT FOR ITS LACK OF LONG-TERM ENERGY POLICY AND URGED THAT THE ENERGY DEBATE BE BROADENED FROM ITS PRESENT FOCUS ON INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS SUCH AS PIPELINES, TO "A COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATION OF ALL OUR MAJOR ALTERNATIVES." HE ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT PETRO-CANADA HAS HAD PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS WITH STATOIL, THE NORWEGIAN NATIONAL OIL COMPANY, AS A "POSSIBLE NON-OPEC SOURCE OF OIL FOR CANADA" AND AS A FIRM OPERATING IN CONDITIONS SIMILAR TO CANADAIN NORTHERN AND OFFSHORE AREAS.  
DIGGINS

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## Message Attributes

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